

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 COME-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 FMC-02  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DLOS-09 OES-09 L-03  
PA-02 ICA-20 /074 W  
-----022063 100156Z /70

R 081727Z SEP 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0805

UNCLAS MONROVIA 6633

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: BTRA (MANFREDI, DOMINIC), EWWT, LI  
SUBJECT: VISIT OF SHIPPING CONFERENCE OFFICIAL

REF: STATE 227167

1. POST WELCOMES VISIT BY THE NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE AMERICAN WEST AFRICAN FREIGHT CONFERENCE (AWAFC). EMBASSY WILL BE PLEASED TO ASSIST. WE HOPE HE WILL SET ASIDE TIME TO MEET WITH KEY EMBASSY STAFF.

2. MANFREDI SHOULD KNOW THAT NUMBER ONE ISSUE ON MINDS OF LIBERIAN OFFICIALS IS RECENT (JUNE 19) DECISION BY AWAFC TO INCREASE PORT DIFFERENTIAL FOR MONROVIA BY (ALLEGEDLY) \$8.00 PER TON. THIS IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED BY REDESIGNATING MONROVIA AS A "GROUP IV PORT" RATHER THAN "GROUP II" CLASSIFICATION IT HAD HAD FOR SOME YEARS. LETTER DATED AUGUST 22 ADDRESSED TO MANFREDI'S PREDECESSOR, JOHN K. CUNNINGHAM, FROM MINISTER OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND TRANSPORTATION, DAVID G. MOORE, CHARACTERIZED THIS INCREASE AS: QUOTE DISCRIMINATORY, UTTERLY WITHOUT REASON, AND UNJUSTIFIABLE UNQUOTE.

3. MINISTER MOORE UNDERLINED HIS CONCERN TO CHARGE UNCLASSIFIED

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AND ECONOMIC/COMERCIAL COUNSELOR DURING A CALL ON HIS SEPTEMBER 7. HE EVIDENTLY SUSPECTS THAT LOSS OF RUBBER EXPORT TRADE TO NONCONFERENCE VESSELS OWNED OR CHARTERED BY FIRESTONE LIES BEHIND THE AWAFC DECISION, BUT HE CONTENDS THAT THIS DOES NOT JUSTIFY IT. HE SEEKS A ROLBACK OF THE INCREASE; IF HE DOES NOT GET IT, HE TOLD CHARGE THAT LIBERIA MIGHT TURN

INCREASINGLY TO NONCONFERENCE VESSELS.

4. EMBASSY WOULD WELCOME A FILL-IN BY AWAFC ON THE  
PRECISE NATURE OF THE CHANGE AND THE REASONING BEHIND  
IT.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X

**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994

**Channel Indicators:** n/a

**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED

**Concepts:** VISITS, PORTS, STEAMSHIP LINES

**Control Number:** n/a

**Copy:** SINGLE

**Draft Date:** 08 sep 1978

**Decapton Date:** 01 jan 1960

**Decapton Note:**

**Disposition Action:** n/a

**Disposition Approved on Date:**

**Disposition Case Number:** n/a

**Disposition Comment:**

**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960

**Disposition Event:**

**Disposition History:** n/a

**Disposition Reason:**

**Disposition Remarks:**

**Document Number:** 1978MONROV06633

**Document Source:** CORE

**Document Unique ID:** 00

**Drafter:** n/a

**Enclosure:** n/a

**Executive Order:** N/A

**Errors:** N/A

**Expiration:**

**Film Number:** D780368-0831

**Format:** TEL

**From:** MONROVIA

**Handling Restrictions:** n/a

**Image Path:**

**ISecure:** 1

**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780989/aaaacvgs.tel

**Line Count:** 68

**Litigation Code IDs:**

**Litigation Codes:**

**Litigation History:**

**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

**Message ID:** 463e1054-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

**Office:** ACTION EB

**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED

**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a

**Original Previous Classification:** n/a

**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a

**Page Count:** 2

**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a

**Previous Classification:** n/a

**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a

**Reference:** 78 STATE 227167

**Retention:** 0

**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED

**Review Content Flags:**

**Review Date:** 29 mar 2005

**Review Event:**

**Review Exemptions:** n/a

**Review Media Identifier:**

**Review Release Date:** N/A

**Review Release Event:** n/a

**Review Transfer Date:**

**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a

**SAS ID:** 1504788

**Secure:** OPEN

**Status:** NATIVE

**Subject:** VISIT OF SHIPPING CONFERENCE OFFICIAL

**TAGS:** BTRA, EWWT, LI, AWAFC, (MANFREDI, DOMINIC)

**To:** STATE

**Type:** TE

**vdkgvgwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/463e1054-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

**Review Markings:**

Sheryl P. Walter

Declassified/Released

US Department of State

EO Systematic Review

20 Mar 2014

**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014